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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Czechoslovak Army Maneuvers, 1-14 August 1949
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1. Purpose of the Maneuvers:

The Czechoslovak Army conducted maneuvers during the period 1-15 August 1949 with the following objectives in mind:

a. To gain experience; specifically, to acquaint commanders and the staffs with:

- 1) Combat and pursuit of the enemy in mountainous and wooded areas.
- 2) Combat in encirclement.
- 3) Encirclement of the enemy.
- 4) Breaking out of encirclement.

b. To check the following factors:

- 1) Time required for movement of troops.
- 2) Time required for loading and unloading troops.
- 3) Use of units in combat immediately after a long march.
- 4) Possibility of extended use of tractors for the transportation of troops and equipment.
- 5) Activity of troops in the rear.
- 6) Political and moral value of individual units.

2. The problem:

The Blue troops had attacked Czechoslovakia, while the people were working on the peaceful reconstruction of their country. The Czechoslovak army (Red troops), with the assistance of the people, had succeeded in stopping the enemy only after a supreme effort, defeating the enemy forces on the left bank of the Elbe River, and forcing them to retreat westwards. The retreat of the Blue Army was being covered south of the Krusne Hory (Erzgebirge) by two higher units in the direction of Chomutov-Klasterec n/O-Falknov and Louny-M. Tepla. Between these two areas, the retreat was covered by the 90th Motorized Battalion and other reinforcement units in the Dourova Hory area. In the north and in the south the Blue Army was pursued by a Red Army Corps in each region. Between these two corps, pursuit of the Blue Army was carried out by the Red IX Army Corps, this action constituting the problem of the maneuvers.

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3. Course of the Maneuvers:

- a. During the actual conduct of the maneuvers, the Blue Army 90th Motorized Battalion, which carried out a retreating fight, was supposed to take up prepared defensive positions on the Tepla River. The Blue Army 43rd Motorized Brigade meanwhile took up defensive positions on a line approximately going through Litrbachy-Sangerberg. The 90th Motorized Battalion was unable to hold the defensive position on the Tepla River very long and was obliged to withdraw.
- b. After contacting the defensive position of the 43rd Motorized Brigade, the Commander of the Red Army IX Corps decided to attack this position on the southern wing with the 22nd Division, 31st Division, and 46th Infantry Regiment. When the break-through had succeeded in the north and in the south, the commander of the Red Army IX Corps received the task of encircling the enemy in the Cisarsky Les (Kaiservald) and destroying him. On the other hand, during the night of 13 August 1949, the 43rd Motorized Brigade (Blue Army) was given the task of breaking through the encirclement in a northerly direction, which task it successfully completed.

4. Participating Units:a. Blue Units (Commander: Colonel of the General Staff Rytir)

Motorized Battalion 90
 Motorized Brigade 43
 (The Blue Army used 1 parachute company in several groups for anti-tank purposes)

b. Red Units (Commander, IX Corps (actually 3rd Corps): Brigadier General Broz)

Liaison Battalion 9
 Engineer Battalion 9
 Regimental Artillery 9th Battalion

22nd Infantry Division (actually the 12th)

Infantry Regiment 12
 Infantry Regiment 14
 Infantry Regiment 84
 Artillery Regiment 8
 Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion 358
 Artillery Battalion 198
 Signal Battalion 22
 Engineer Battalion 22
 Reconnaissance Company 22
 Company VKPL 22

31st Infantry Division (actually the 11th)

Infantry Regiment 16
 Infantry Regiment 28
 Infantry Regiment 40
 Artillery Regiment 12
 Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion 262
 Artillery Battalion 188
 Signal Battalion 31
 Engineer Battalion 31
 Reconnaissance Battalion 31
 Company VKPL 31

34th Infantry Division (supposed)
 46 Infantry Regiment

Fast Attack Group
 Tank Brigade 26
 Motor Battalion 48
 Artillery Regiment 209
 Artillery Battalion 256
 Signal Company
 Motor Battalion 54

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18th Artillery Brigade
Artillery Battalion 321
Artillery Battalion 320
Artillery Battalion 322
MDO 410

19th Artillery Brigade
Artillery Battalion 323
Artillery Battalion 324
Artillery Regiment 115

(The Red Army used one parachute battalion; however, because of a lack of airplane facilities only nine planes were supposed to drop troops; the other troops were supposed to be brought by trucks, but because of bad weather the entire battalion was brought to the area in trucks.)

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